

FOR OUR YOUNGSTERS

GOOD AND NAUGHTY KITTENS!



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Helen

Wilma

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FOR OUR YOUNGSTERS

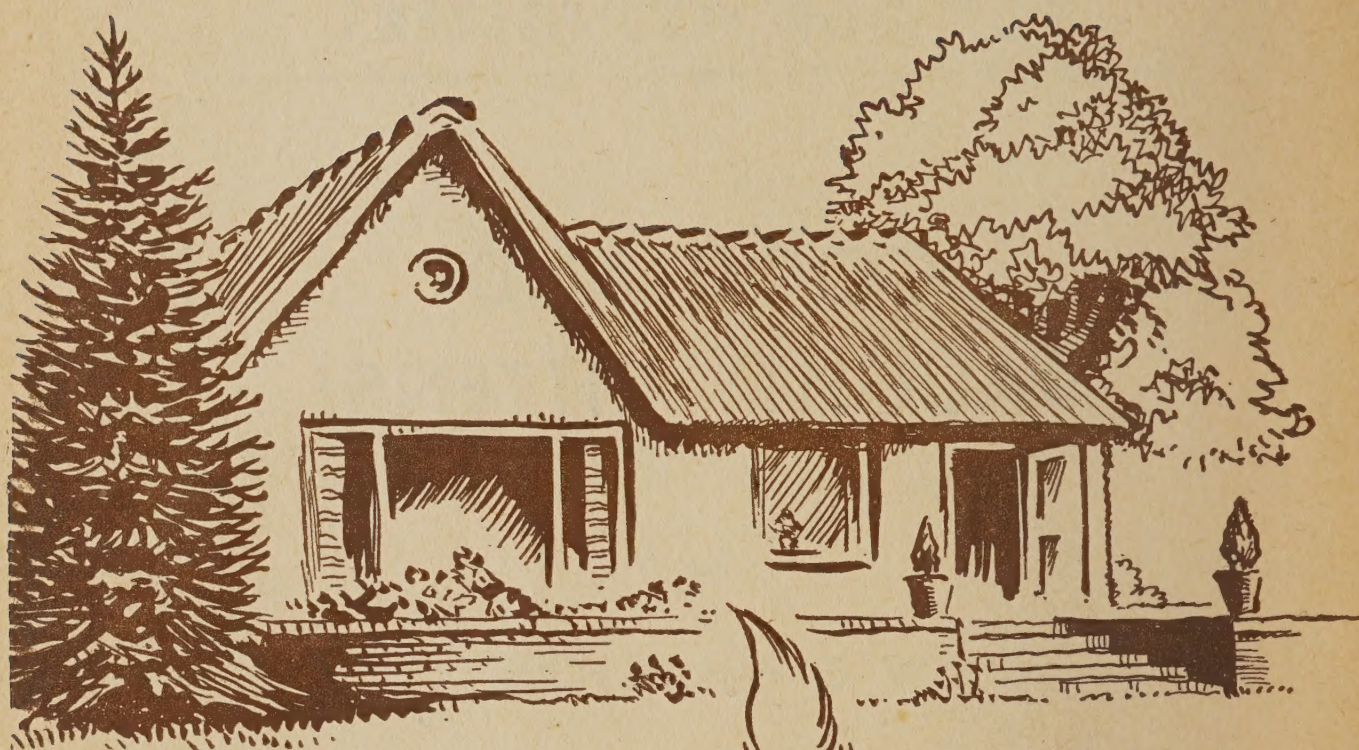
GOOD AND
NAUGHTY KITTENS!

by

W. G. VAN DE HULST



WOUDSTRA'S BOOKHOUSE, EDMONTON-ALTA-CANADA



1. Two Little Rascals

Micky and Mitsy are going on a trip together.
They are going out into the wide, wide world.
And no one knows about it.

"Come on!," said Micky.

"Come on!" said Mitsy.

The door to the garden was open.

And the wide, wide world was, oh, so very big!



They ran into the garden; away out into the garden.
And the wind was blowing up in the tree tops.

Then the two little kittens came to the woodshed.
Micky jumped over the doorsill. And then Mitsy jumped over the doorsill, too.

The wind said, "Whoosh!" and it blew the door shut with a bang.

Oh! It was dark in the shed.

And, oh, it frightened the little kittens!

"Meouw!," said Micky.

"Meouw!," said Mitsy, "What shall we do now?"

And no one . . . no one knew where the two little rascals were.

The wide, wide world was, oh, so very big!



2. In the Dark Shed

In the shed there was a high, black mountain.

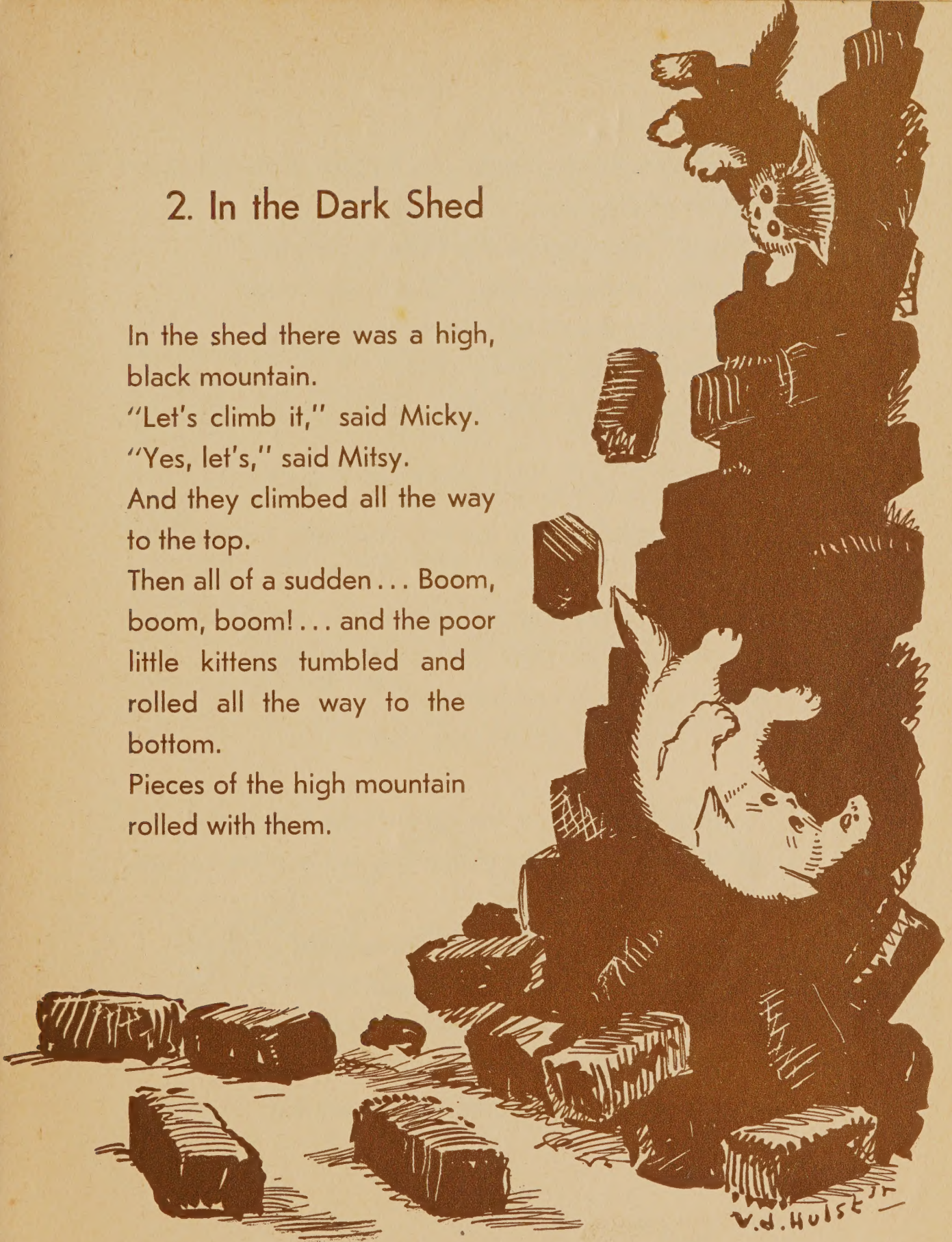
"Let's climb it," said Micky.

"Yes, let's," said Mitsy.

And they climbed all the way to the top.

Then all of a sudden . . . Boom, boom, boom! . . . and the poor little kittens tumbled and rolled all the way to the bottom.

Pieces of the high mountain rolled with them.



What were those pieces? . . . Oh, they were big round blocks of firewood.

"Ouch!" meowed Micky, "Ouch, my paw!"

"Ouch!" meowed Mitsy, "Ouch, my head!"

Then Micky licked Mitsy's head.

And Mitsy licked Micky's paw.

And then, just like that, the pain was gone . . . All gone!

They climbed over a box.

They crawled into a basket, and they climbed out again.

And then Micky stepped into a dish. Ugh! there was something in that dish. It was soft and wet.

Micky quickly licked her paw.

Ugh! It was soft yellow soap. Ugh!

And then, all at once, they saw a little hole in the wall. Just a little hole, close to the ground and the sun was shining through it.

"Come on," said Micky, "I know the way now."

"Let's go!" said Mitsy.

Quickly they squeezed through the little hole, out into the wide, wide world.

And the wide, wide world was so very big!

3. Lost

Now they were lost, lost in a strange garden.

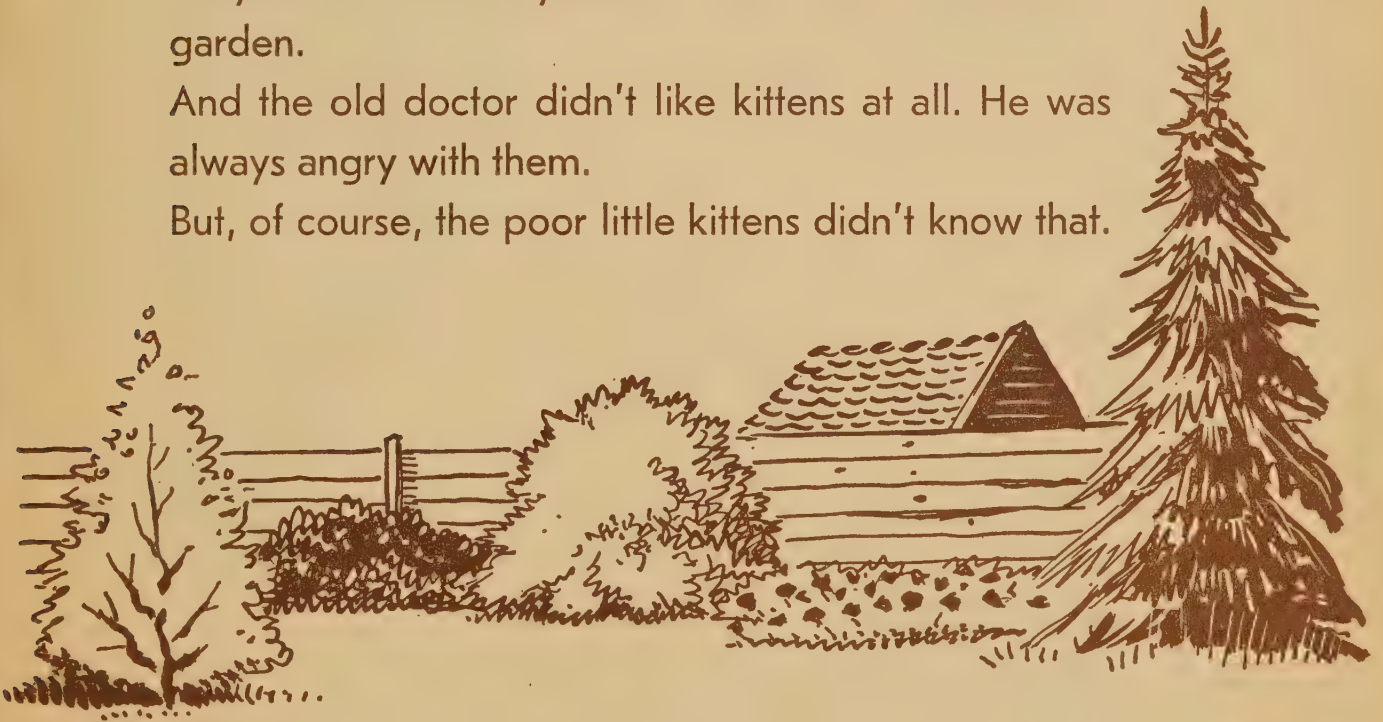
The bright sun hurt their little eyes.

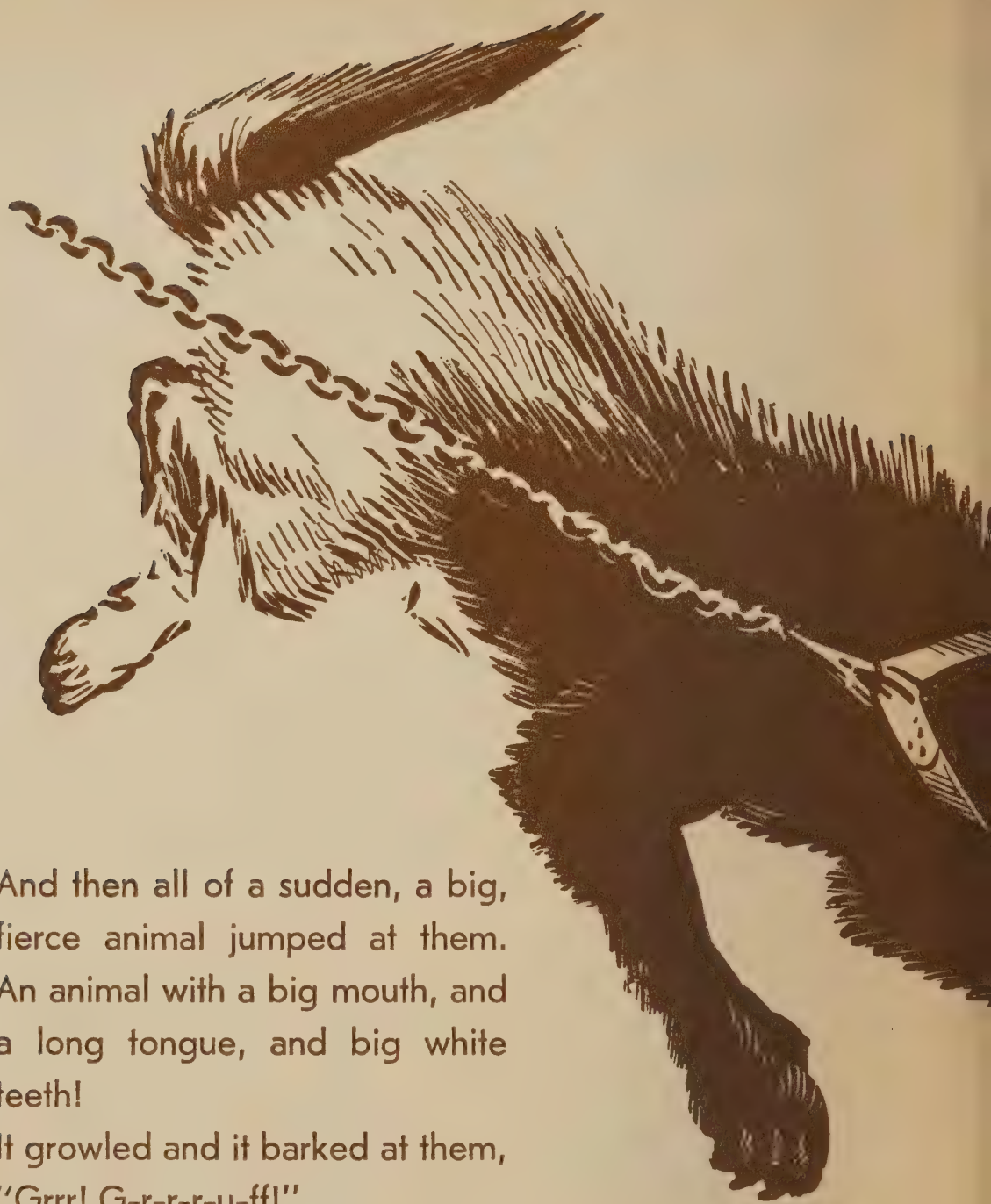
They didn't know at all where their little basket was,
and they didn't know where their dish of food was
either.

They were lost. They were lost in the old doctor's
garden.

And the old doctor didn't like kittens at all. He was
always angry with them.

But, of course, the poor little kittens didn't know that.





And then all of a sudden, a big, fierce animal jumped at them. An animal with a big mouth, and a long tongue, and big white teeth!

It growled and it barked at them, "Grrr! G-r-r-r-u-ff!"

Oh, those poor little kittens! They were so frightened. They shivered with fear. They pinched their eyes shut because they were so afraid.

But the big fierce animal was tied with a strong chain.
He couldn't reach the frightened little kittens.

Good!

They ran away just as fast as they could go, and their
little tails were pointed straight up in the air.

And would you like to know where they found them-
selves next?



Right by an open kitchen window. The window was low and right next to the steps.

And on the window sill stood a bowl. There was something in the bowl.

"I smell something good," said Micky.

"So do I," said Mitsy.

"I see something."

"So do I."

"I'm going to taste it."

"So am I."

And the two naughty little kittens started to eat the pudding.

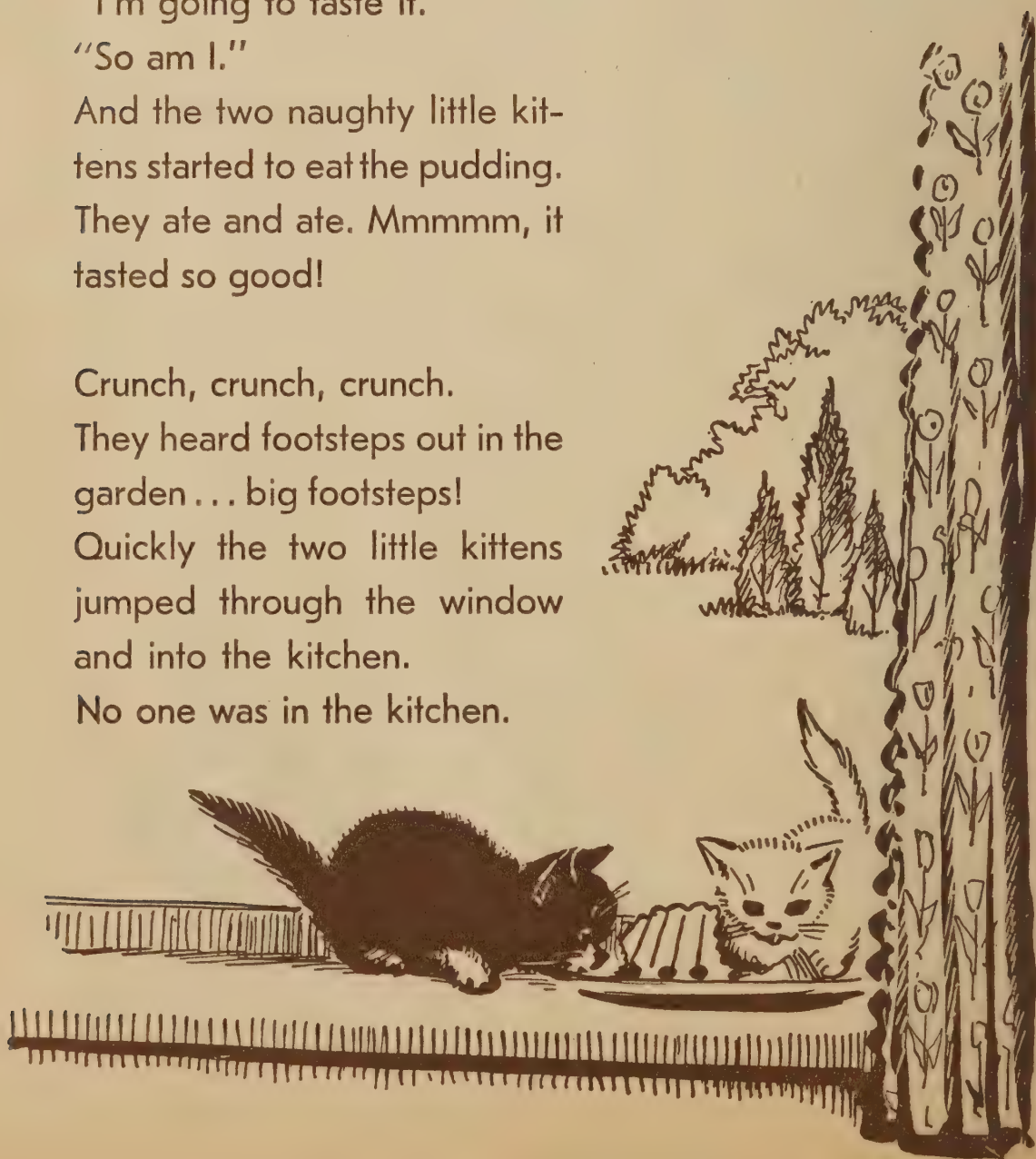
They ate and ate. Mmmmm, it tasted so good!

Crunch, crunch, crunch.

They heard footsteps out in the garden . . . big footsteps!

Quickly the two little kittens jumped through the window and into the kitchen.

No one was in the kitchen.



"Do you know the way?" asked Micky.

"Not I," said Mitsy.

They climbed up on the table. And with their little pink noses they sniff-sniffed at all the pots and pans.

And then, just for fun, Micky sat in an empty plate. But that plate was standing right near the edge of the table.

Oh, oh! It fell and Micky fell with it. The plate fell on the tile floor.

Crack! Crash!

It broke into a hundred pieces.

And away they ran, those two little kittens.

They ran out into the hall.

It was quiet and scary in the hall, but the kittens walked right on through.

They came to the living room.





The living room was very pretty and it was so quiet.
There was no one in the living room.

They went to look everywhere, those two little rascals.
They jumped up on the chairs and they sniffed around
in the cupboards.

They climbed up on a little table. On it lay the doctor's
long pipe... his favorite pipe.

It was only a little table and it wiggled and wob-
bled... and... crack!... crash! there on the floor
lay the doctor's pipe all broken in pieces

And Micky and Mitsy walked all over the desk, too.
That was fun. The desk was covered with papers. They
made a funny noise when the kittens walked over

them. They scampered all over the letters. They scratched around in them and they even bit some of them. Then they began to play a game. Oh, that was fun. They liked the funny noise the papers made.

But then, all of a sudden, Micky jumped up and landed with one paw in the bottle of ink.

Oh, that wasn't fun at all! It was wet.

She shook her little paw and the ink splattered all over. She walked over the letters and wherever she walked there were big black blots.

That was strange! Their eyes opened wide with surprise.

Those little kittens didn't understand it at all.

And so away they ran . . . back into the hall and up the stairs until they came to a bedroom.

They climbed up on the bed. It was so soft.

"I think I'll take a nap," said Micky.

"I think I will too," said Mitsy.

They curled up together.

It was so comfortable and warm.

And they fell fast asleep.

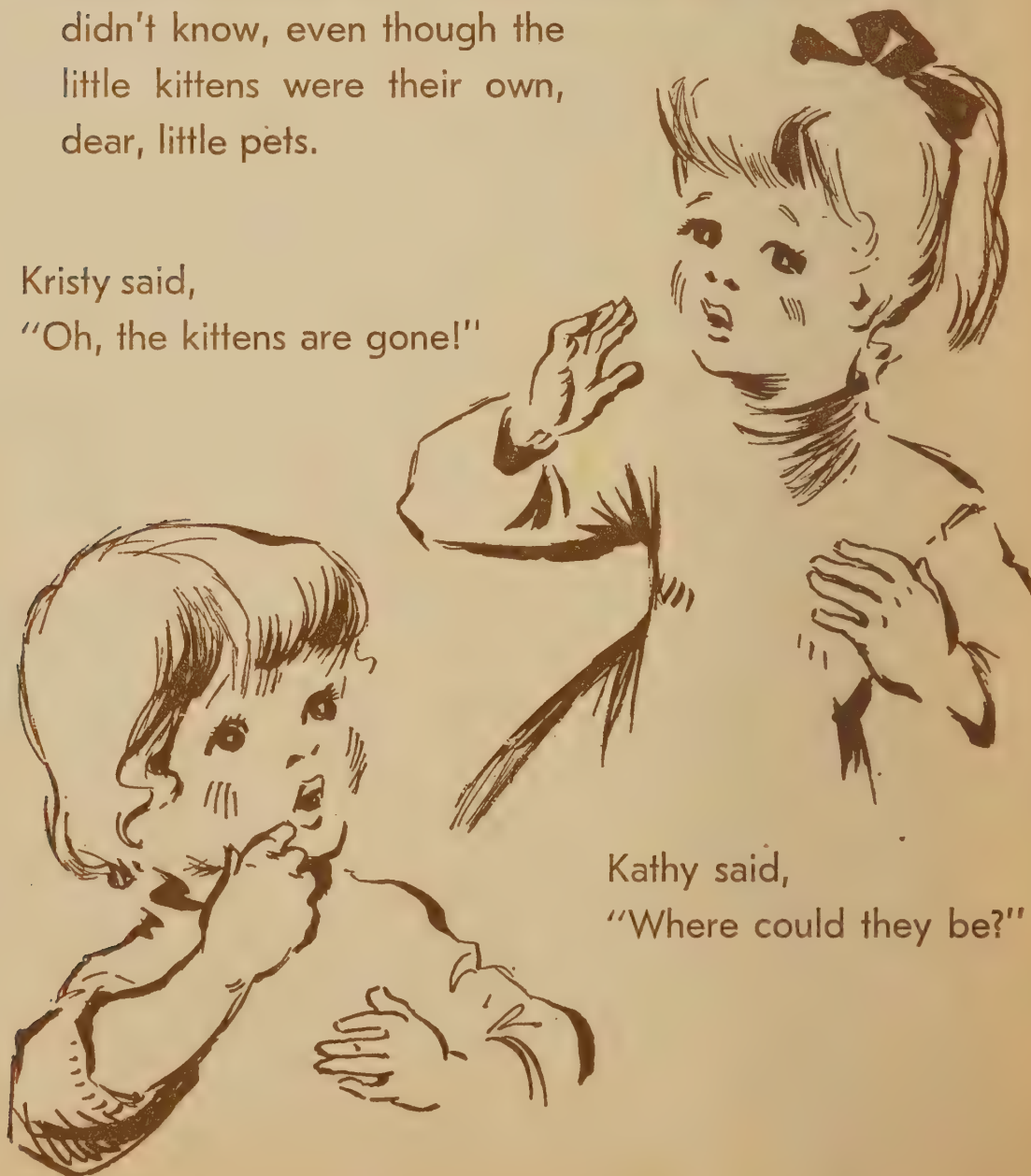


4. Kristy and Kathy

No one knew the kittens were on a trip. No one knew where they were.

Kristy and Kathy didn't know where they were. They didn't know, even though the little kittens were their own, dear, little pets.

Kristy said,
"Oh, the kittens are gone!"



Kathy said,
"Where could they be?"

And so the two little girls began to look for their kittens.

They looked in the living room.

They looked in the cupboard.

They looked in Mother's big sewing basket.

They looked in the doll buggy.

They looked upstairs.

They looked all over, but the kittens were gone. They couldn't find them anywhere.

And no one . . . no one knew where the little kittens were.

Mother was gone. Father was gone too.

Kristy and Kathy were home alone.

And Kristy had promised, "I'll take good care of the kittens, Mother."

But now the kittens were gone anyhow. They were gone and no one knew where.

Kathy's eyes filled with tears.

But Kristy said, "Oh, look! The front door is open just a little bit. I hope they didn't run out in the street."

The two little sisters ran outside but they didn't see the kittens anywhere.

Just then a policeman came along.

Would he know?

Kathy whispered, "Do we dare to ask him?"

Kristy said, "I'm not afraid."

She went up to the policeman and raised her hand just like she did at school.

"Sir, our kittens are gone."

The policeman smiled. He had his hands behind his back.

"Which kittens?" he asked.

"Their names are Micky and Mitsy, sir."

"I see," said the policeman.

"Yes, sir, and Micky is the white kitten and Mitsy is the black one and she has white paws."

"I see," said the policeman, "Have you looked in the garden?"

"No, sir."

"Well, perhaps Micky and Mitsy are out in the garden eating strawberries. Or perhaps they are visiting with one of the neighbors. You'd better look right now."

The policeman walked on, his hands behind his back.



5. Where are the kittens?

"Yes, let's look in the garden!"

"Yes, yes, let's hurry!"

The two little girls ran as fast as they could. They slammed the door behind them.

They looked and looked . . . and looked. They looked everywhere.

But, . . . the poor little kittens were nowhere to be found.

They decided to look in the shed.

Oh, the pile of wood had fallen, and one big piece lay in the dish of soap!

"I wonder who did that," said Kathy.

"Perhaps Micky and Mitsy did," said Kristy.

"Oh, look! I see a hole. Look, right over there."

"Oh, yes!"

"I'm sure the kittens crawled through it."

"Yes, I'm sure they did."

And Kristy laid down on her tummy and called through the hole, "Kitty, kitty! Here, kitty! Come kitty!"

And Kathy called too, "Come, Micky! Come Mitsy! There is a big dog in the garden. And the doctor is angry and doesn't like kittens."

"Come, kitty, kitty!"



But Micky and Mitsy didn't come.
Oh, no!

Kathy put her hand through the hole.

"Grrrr . . . rrrr' ,, growled the big dog.

"Oh, Kathy, maybe the big dog ate our little kittens!"

"Yes," said Kathy, "maybe he did. Oh, those poor, dear, little kittens!"

And Kathy began to cry.

"Don't cry, Kathy. Listen, I have an idea. Come with me."

"What are you going to do?"

"Just come with me, but be very quiet."

They tip-toed out of the shed, and went all the way to the back of the garden.

They crawled between the bushes until they were right next to the high board fence.

And Kristy whispered, "Do you see this board? It's loose. See? Shall we crawl through?"

"Oh, no, no! Not !! I'm afraid," said Kathy.

"I'm not afraid. Come on. The big dog is tied with a chain. And the doctor can't see us. Come on, Kathy."

"I don't dare."

"Oh, come on, Kathy. Perhaps the kittens are just under the bushes. If they are, we'll catch them easily, won't we?"

Kristy climbed through the hole.

"Come, Kathy. See how easy it is?"

And so frightened little Kathy crawled through the hole, too.

The two little girls were in the doctor's garden.

How did they dare?



6. The Angry Doctor

The old doctor came home.

The rugs in the hallway were lying crooked.

"Hmmm, I wonder who did that."

He looked very angry.

He went into his lovely living room.

There lay his favorite pipe . . . broken in pieces.

"Hmmm, I wonder who did that."

And he looked very, very angry.

Next he came to the desk.

And then he saw everything . . . everything!

"Hmmm, I wonder who did that."

Now he was very, very angry. He clenched his fist. He stamped on the floor. He was so angry.

Then he began to call, "Betsy! Betsy, come here quickly!"

Betsy was the doctor's housekeeper. She was upstairs when she heard the doctor call.



"Betsy! Betsy, come quickly!"

Betsy was coming but she had to go through the kitchen first.

And there... there she saw the beautiful plate, the broken plate.

And she saw that someone had eaten the pudding, too.

She scolded, "Now who did that?"

She hurried into the living room.

"Oh, doctor, one of the beautiful plates is broken and someone has eaten the pudding, too. Who did it? Who has been in the house?"

"And, Betsy, look at this. My favorite pipe is broken. And just look at the ink spatters and blots all over my letters! Who did it? Who has been in the house?"

"I don't know, doctor."

"Well, I don't know either."

The rascals!

The scamps!

And then all of a sudden they heard Bruno, the big dog. He was barking and growling and tugging at his chain.

"What now?" asked the doctor.

"What is he making such a fuss about?" asked Betsy.

Quickly they ran to the window. They looked out into the garden.



And then, out there they saw Kristy and Kathy who had crawled through the hole in the fence.

The old doctor was very, very angry.

And old Betsy was very, very angry, too.

The doctor shouted, "There they are, the naughty children! They broke my pipe and they spilled ink on my letters!"

And old Betsy shouted, "There they are, those rascals. They broke my pretty plate and ate the pudding."

"Yes, they must have sneaked into the house when no one was around. Such naughty girls!"

"Wait, I'll fix them! I'll..."

And the doctor picked up his cane.

And old Betsy followed with a carpet beater.

Quickly they ran outside, out into the garden.

Poor Kristy! Poor Kathy!

7. Poor Kristy! Poor Kathy!

"Oh, Kristy, Kristy, here comes the doctor... Hurry! Hurry!"

And Kristy quickly crawled back through the hole in the fence. She shook with fright.

Kathy started to follow her through the hole, but then... all of a sudden she was stuck. She couldn't go any farther. Her pretty red hair ribbon was caught on a crooked nail in the fence.

She pulled... and pulled... and pulled.

She cried, "No, no, doctor, no, no!"

And she pulled...



And all of a sudden she was loose.

But . . . the pretty red ribbon was still hanging on the crooked nail.

The two little girls ran into their own garden. They didn't even dare to look back.

But they did hear the doctor scolding, "Such naughty children!"

"Such rude little girls!"

"They walk right into my house. They eat the pudding. They break my pipe. They play with the ink. Such naughty, rude children!"

Just then the doctor saw Kathy's pretty, red, hair ribbon. He took the ribbon off the crooked nail and put it in his pocket.

He went to get the hammer and some nails and nailed the loose board in place.

"There, that should take care of them. Those rude children won't come into my house any more!"

Poor Kristy! Poor Kathy!

They ran to their house just as fast as they could.

They sat together at one end of the sofa.



And they cried and cried.

"I never did eat any of the pudding," sobbed Kristy.

"I never did play with the ink," sobbed Kathy.

"Oh, that angry doctor!"

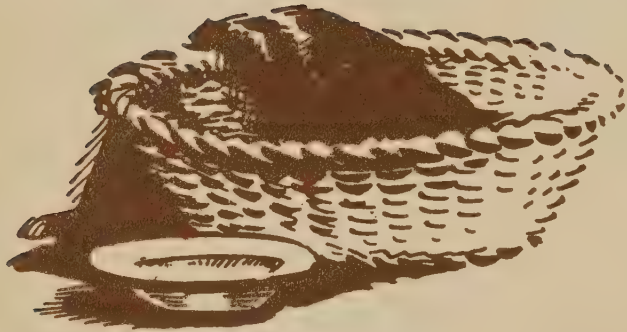
"And my pretty red ribbon!"

"And our dear little kittens!"

"I wish mother would come home."

"Mother! Mother!"

8. Bed Time



And now it is evening.

Kathy and Kristy are in bed.

Mother has tucked them into their bed.

But there is nothing in the

little kittens' basket. It is downstairs in the living room. Tonight it is empty.

And no one . . . no one knows where the kittens are tonight.

Kathy and Kristy have told mother everything that happened . . . everything.

Mother was upset. She scolded.

"Naughty children! You shouldn't go into the doctor's garden. You know better than that."

But now Mother isn't angry anymore.

And Mother looked for the kittens, too.

She looked all through the house, and out in the garden, and in the woodshed.
But she didn't find them, either.
Oh, those poor, lost little kittens.

Kristy and Kathy have prayed their evening prayer. They kneeled beside their bed. Mother sat on the edge of the bed while they prayed.

Mother had said, "The Lord Jesus in heaven listens when you pray. He knows everything and He sees everything."

But now Mother is gone. It is very quiet in the little bedroom.

But Kristy and Kathy can't go to sleep. They are still thinking about their poor, little kittens and about the angry doctor.

They whisper . . . very quietly.

And then . . . Kristy sits up in bed and calls, "Mother!



Mother, may I ask you something?"

"Yes, dear, what is it?"

"Mother, I'd like to ask you something, please."

Mother comes upstairs.

"Yes, Kristy, what is it you want to ask me?"

"May I whisper it in your ear, Mother?"

Mother bends over the two little girls.



And then Kristy whispers, "Mother, the Lord Jesus knows everything, doesn't He?"

"Why, yes, dear, He knows everything."

"Well then, Mother, He knows, too, that we didn't eat any of that pudding and that we didn't break the pipe."

"Yes, dear, I'm sure He knows that. And now you had better go right to sleep. Sleep tight."

But Kathy says, "Mother, just a minute. May we ask you something else, Mother?"

"Yes, dear, what else?"

"We shouldn't pray about kittens, should we Mother?"

"Why, yes, child, you certainly may. The dear Lord cares for all of his creatures. They don't understand that, but we do. Certainly you may pray about the kittens. Why don't you do it right now?"

And then, a little later Mother went downstairs again. And now it is very, very quiet in the little bedroom.

Kathy and Kristy have fallen asleep.
They aren't worried anymore.





9. The Angry Doctor and Good Old Betsy

And the doctor? . . . The doctor went to bed too. He was still angry.

He found the pretty red hair ribbon in his pocket. He laid it on the table right next to the wash bowl.

"Such naughty little girls! Just wait until I tell their father about them tomorrow."

Listen! What was that? Is there something under the cupboard?

Oh, no, now it is quiet again. Perhaps he just thought he heard something.

The doctor turned out the light.

He was ready to get into bed.

Ugh! What was that? He felt something on his bare feet... something soft... Ugh!

He looked. He felt. He couldn't find anything, it was too dark.

He wanted to turn on the lights again but he was so tired.

He crawled into bed. It was very quiet in the room.

Sh! What was that? Something was moving on the little table. The doctor opened his eyes wide... but he couldn't see anything. Sh! There it was again over

on the little table next to the wash stand. Oh, it's the
pretty red hair ribbon. It is walking on that little table.
But, no, that can't be!
What could it be?



And then all is quiet once more.

Splash! Something fell into the wash bowl. And it
even squeaked! The water splashed onto the floor.
The doctor had forgotten to drain the water.

The doctor was frightened. He started to get out of bed. He put one foot on the floor.

And then all was quiet again.

But then ... something jumped on his bed. It ran right over him. It got into his beard and something brushed against his bare foot. It was soft and wet. Ugh!

The doctor became so frightened and so angry that he grabbed with both of his big hands. With one hand he caught hold of Micky and with the other hand he caught hold of Mitsy.

He scolded angrily.

"You dirty little animals!"

"You ugly little animals!"

He jumped out of bed and ran to the door.

"Betsy, Betsy! Hurry! Come here!"

He set the kittens just outside his door, wet Micky right next to dry Mitsy.

He slammed the door shut and crawled back into his bed.

Old Betsy came upstairs.

Old Betsy was a kind hearted lady. She saw the poor little kittens and she felt so sorry for them.

Micky was wet and shivering. Mitsy was licking her. "Oh, you poor, little things! Poor little kittens! Come along with me. Oh, you're all wet! How did that happen?"

But Micky didn't say anything. She was shivering. She snuggled closer against Old Betsy's nightgown. And Mitsy did too.

They all went downstairs.

And do you know what Old Betsy did then? She wrapped Micky and Mitsy in a big warm towel, only their heads were peeking out. And then she laid the little kittens right next to her. Right in her own bed!

"Poor little things! Where in the world did you come from? You silly little kittens, why didn't you stay in your own home?"

Then Old Betsy fell asleep.

And Micky and Mitsy fell asleep, too.

And so the two little runaways had a safe place for the night, after all.





10. Over the Board Fence

Night had passed.

It was very early in the morning.

But Kristy and Kathy were out in the garden anyhow.

They were out looking for the kittens again.

Perhaps Micky and Mitsy had come back during the night . . . just perhaps.

But no . . . they were nowhere to be found.

Then suddenly they heard an angry voice.

"Girls, come over here. I want to talk to you."

The girls are frightened. They stare . . . it is the doctor!

He has climbed up on something and now he is looking at them over the fence.

'Come here, girls.'

But the little girls don't dare. They would rather run away.

But then the doctor asks. "Do those kittens belong to you?"

Kittens!

Kristy stopped. She reached up with both hands.

And she shouted, "Kittens! Yes, yes, doctor, yes, yes!"

And Kathy reached up with both of her hands, too.

"So! Those are your kittens. Well, let me tell you they are naughty little rascals."

"Yes, yes, doctor."

"Those rascals have done all kinds of mischief in my house. And one of them fell into the washbowl last night. They gave me an awful scare... Oh, now I know! Now I know! They were the ones who did those other things, too. They were the ones who ate the pudding and played with the ink and broke my pipe. You didn't do that, did you?"

"No, doctor, no!"

"Well, would you like to have the kittens again?"

"Oh, yes, doctor, please!"

And the happy little girls jump for joy.

It made the doctor laugh . . . just a little bit.

"Betsy, come here!"

Betsy is coming. She sets a little stepladder against the board fence. She climbs up on it, right next to the doctor.

The little girls hear it. It makes them happy.

Then they see Betsy. First her hair, and then her face, and then her arms. And in her arms . . . are the kittens!

Oh, those dear, dear kittens!

"Hold out your aprons," says the doctor.

And Kathy and Kristy stand close to the board fence.

Betsy reaches over the fence. And then very carefully she drops the kittens . . . Micky into Kathy's apron and Mitsy into Kristy's apron.

"Meow! Meow!"

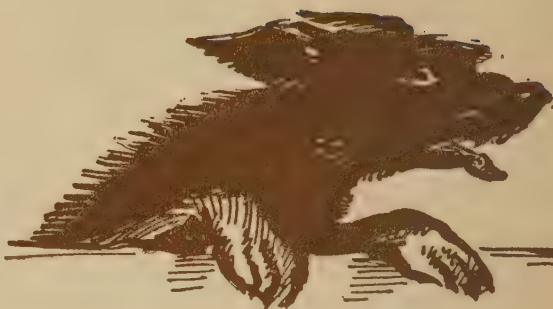
And the little girls turn and run as fast as they can.

They don't even remember to say, "Thank you."

They have forgotten all about that.

They call, "Mother! Mother!
The kittens! The kittens!"
The doctor gets off the
chair.
Old Betsy steps down from
the little ladder.





Old Betsy and the doctor walk back to the house together. They are still laughing about those two funny little girls.

But Bruno, the big dog, sees the empty little stepladder. He climbs up on the stepladder and looks over the fence. He growls and he barks, "Grrrr, Grr-r-u-f-f!"

That means, "You had better watch out, you rascals! Don't you dare come on this side of the fence again!"



12. Good Kittens! Naughty Kittens!

How happy the kittens were!
How happy the little girls were!
And how happy Mother and Father were!

Mother said, "Well, it all turned out just right, didn't it?"

Father winked a big wink.

He said, "Listen, I have a little secret."

And he took them all on his lap: Kathy and Kristy and Micky and Mitsy.

Oh, no, not Mother; she was too big. She sat on a little stool. She wanted to hear the secret too.

And then Father told his secret.

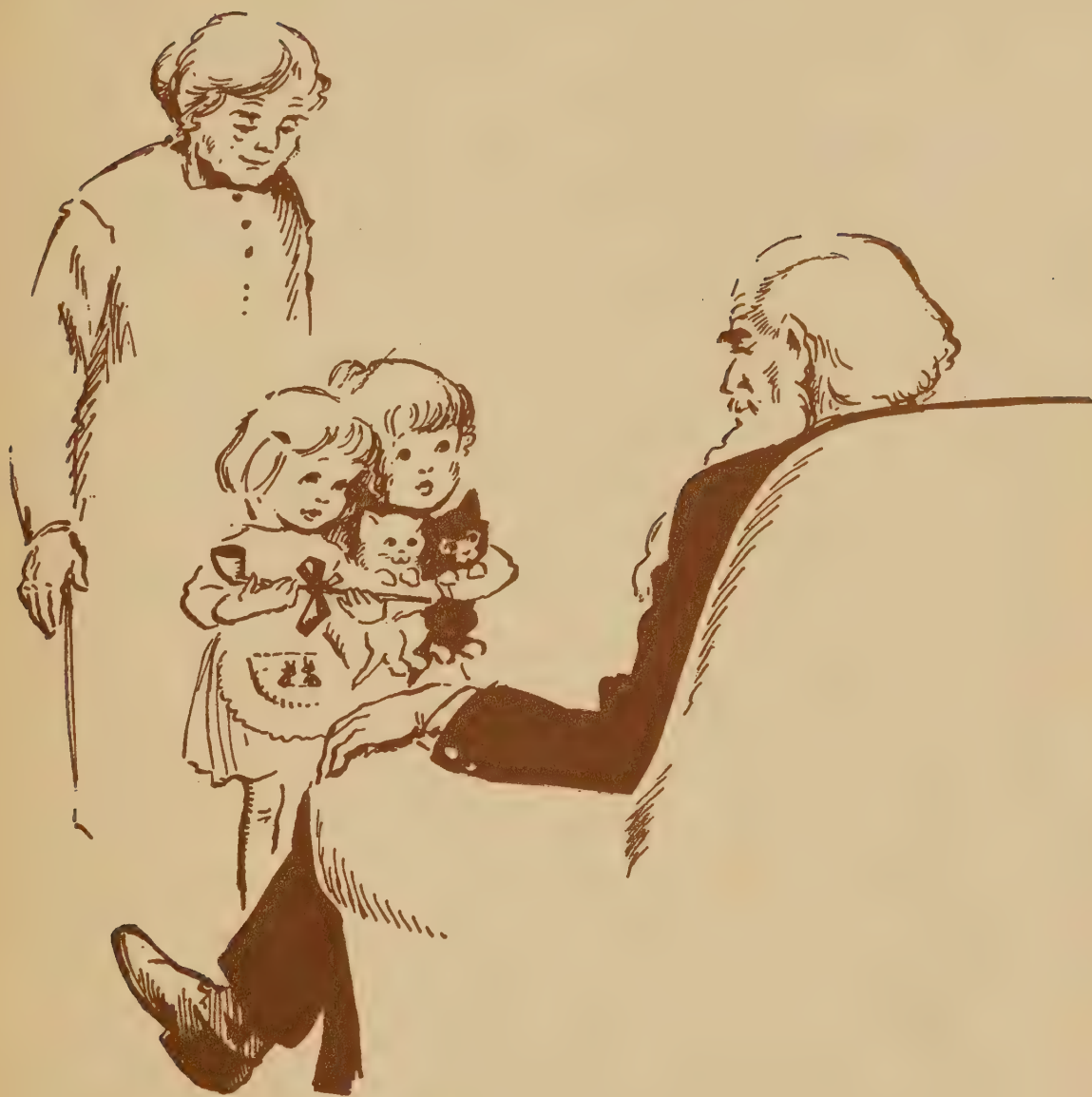
Mother said, "Oh, yes, that is a lovely idea!"

And the little girls said, "Yes, yes, oh, yes!"

And now, just look. They are going up the sidewalk.
Kathy and Kristy together.

Kristy is carrying something.
And Kathy is carrying something, too.
They are very careful.
They can see the policeman standing on the corner.
He has his hands behind his back.
Kathy and Kristy walk up the steps to the doctor's house.

Old Betsy opens the door for them.
"Well, well! What is all this about?" she laughs.
"Come on in! Come on in!"
Then all together they go to see the doctor. He is sitting in his lovely living room.
The doctor looks angry, but when he sees Kathy and Kristy he laughs just a little.
"Come here, little girls."
Kristy isn't afraid anymore, and Kathy isn't afraid, either.
They come up closer, right in front of him.
And Old Betsy says, "Well, well, well!"
Do you see? Kristy is carrying the two little kittens in her arms.
And Kathy is carrying something, too. Do you see



what it is? It is a lovely long pipe and there is a bow of green ribbon on it. That makes it look very pretty. Kathy says, "It's for you. It's from the kittens."

Then the doctor really did laugh. He didn't look angry any more. Oh, no!

He took the pipe. He looked it over very carefully. And he liked it very much.

He stroked Micky and Mitsy and said, "Those are NAUGHTY little kittens."

Then he patted Kristy and Kathy on their cheeks and said, "But you, . . . you are GOOD little kittens."

And Old Betsy laughed, too. She said, "Yes, yes. Good kittens! Naughty kittens!"

Then it was time for Kristy and Kathy to go home again.

And Micky and Mitsy went along.

But the pipe didn't go along. Oh, no! The pipe stayed with the doctor.

Old Betsy gave them each a little bag of strawberries.

And she gave them the pretty red hair ribbon, too.

Quickly they ran home to Mother and Father.

They told them everything.

Micky and Mitsy went to eat out of their own little



plate again. And they went to sleep in their own little basket. Micky's one paw was still black.

Yes, the wide, wide world was so very big, but the two little kittens had forgotten all about their dangerous trip.

Kathy and Kristy went out to play in the garden.

There is a crack in the board fence.

They looked through it.

And do you know what they saw?

They saw the doctor. He was sitting in the sun. He was smoking his new pipe.

And . . . the pretty green ribbon was still on the pipe.

Kristy whispered, "I think the doctor is a nice man."

"I think so, too," said Kathy.

They called through the little crack.

"Hello, doctor, hello!"

It made them feel foolish.

And they ran away as fast as they could.



Translated from the Dutch by W. Gábrielse

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